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REPORT

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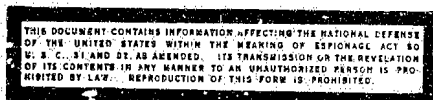
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 32, 1949.AIR AND RESERVOIR PURIFICATION LAGS

In order of the Ministry of Public Health USSR, published in June of this year envisaged the implementation of radical measures for control of contamination of the air and the improvement of sanitation-hygienic conditions in populated places. Great responsibility was placed upon the All-Union State Sanitation Inspection and local sanitation organizations. They were charged with responsibility for strict control of the installation of purification equipment in industrial enterprises and for ascertaining that new plants and factories have units protecting the air from contamination.

The work that has been done in this direction is just a beginning in the extensive program for real sanitation control. In 1949, the All-Union State Sanitation Inspection, together with the industrial ministries, are obliged to draw up plans for the construction of air-purification units for enterprises. The State Sanitation Inspector has been given all the authority necessary to demand, and positively obtain, complete compliance with this important directive. Unfortunately, in some places flagrant violations are tolerated. Even the main state sanitation inspections of certain republics direct the local organizations poorly. These inspections cannot assure accomplishment of their missions.

Moreover, evidence is available concerning infringements of service regulations on the part of individual ministries of public health of republics. For example, the Ministries of Public Health of the RSFSR and the Ukraine, contrary to the order of the All-Union Ministry, did not give the list of enterprises where purification units for ridding the air of industrial waste products were necessary to the All-Union State Sanitation Inspection. These facts show that some sanitation directors have failed to appreciate the importance of this matter. Directives concerning maintenance of purity of the air must be complied with unconditionally and promptly! This is one of the most responsible tasks of the sanitation service.

Soviet hygienic science and sanitation practice have acquired considerable experience in safeguarding the water reserves of the country. The decree of the Council of Ministers USSR, "Concerning Measures for Eliminating Contamination and Sanitary Safeguarding of Water Sources," adopted more than 2 years ago, emphasized the economic importance of this problem. This decision armed the sanitation organization with a law which made it fully possible to protect reservoirs from contamination. The government forbids ministries and departments from placing new enterprises into operation if they do not assure purification of drainage waters.

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Unfortunately, in many places, the plan for construction of purification units is lagging while sanitation organizations are tolerating the delay.

For example, it is completely intolerable that the Leningrad Oblast state sanitation inspector, Orimovich, until recently did not know of plants which are contaminating reservoirs. At several Ufa enterprises, the supply of drinking water is poor. While the head state sanitation inspector of Bashkir SSR, Gellerman, could not comply with the government decree concerning construction of a water supply line.

The sanitation doctor who serves leading branches of industry should have a laboratory at his disposal. It would help him improve control of air purification, expose harmful impurities in time, and make scientifically founded demands upon the industrialist. The staffs of industrial sanitation laboratories of sanitation-epidemiological stations have already been approved. We speak here of the necessity of training qualified personnel and equipping the laboratories. We can no longer tolerate a situation in which certain regions containing large industrial enterprises have no industrial-sanitation laboratory (Chusovskiy Metallurgical Combine, Molotov Oblast, certain plants of Yaroslavl and Stalingrad Oblasts, etc.).

The workers of the sanitation service are justified in making serious demands upon hygienic science. Theory still lags behind practice in a number of leading problems. Scientists must give accurate figures concerning the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful materials in reservoirs and in air. The Ministry of Public Health USSR and the All-Union State Sanitation Inspection must coordinate all scientific-research work concerning sanitary safeguarding of air and reservoirs.

Scientific research hygiene institutes and chairs of higher medical institutions are assigned an important role in training personnel. They must educate and train young sanitation doctors and workers of medicosanitation sections of industrial enterprises in specialities.

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